



Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County

105 East Glenside Avenue, Suite E, Glenside, PA 19038

Phone: (215) 576-7711

Fax: (215) 576-1509

www.fairhousingmontco.org

Press Release

For more information contact: Beth Albert, Executive Director - 215-576-7711

BRIDGEPORT, PA, December 28, 2006 – The Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County is announcing to Bridgeport residents that the Borough of Bridgeport has agreed to postpone enforcement of the recently adopted Illegal Immigration Relief Act, the Official English-Only, and Rental Registration Ordinances. The Borough will also give 10 days written notice before enforcing the ordinances, according to an agreement between its attorney and attorneys preparing a challenge to the ordinances. In turn, the attorneys for community residents and organizations opposed to the ordinances have agreed not to file suit or seek an injunction before the end of the calendar year or without notice.

The three ordinances were passed during the October and November months of 2006 and have sparked wide spread concern throughout the Bridgeport community. Although the Borough maintains the ordinances are a public safety issue, the negative impact is already being felt by the local residents of the Bridgeport community due to a rise in ethnic profiling and loss of rental housing and business opportunities.

Passage of these ordinances makes it illegal for landlords to rent to undocumented immigrants and require every person renting in Bridgeport to obtain an occupancy permit.

Similar ordinances have been adopted throughout the country. The most notable being in Hazleton Pennsylvania, where a once thriving business community has since faced tremendous economic losses and has forced people to move out of Hazelton. In addition, the city of Escondido, California has also agreed to a permanent restraining order against similar ordinances. The city will not be enforcing these ordinances and has been ordered to pay \$90,000 to the plaintiffs for legal fees associated with their filing of the lawsuit.

The Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County is a non-profit organization with a mission to ensure equal housing opportunities in Montgomery County regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or age (over 40).